

*Mr Dawson*<sup>61.</sup>

# Small Home FARMS

IN THE  
IRRIGATED AREAS  
OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

*Healthful Occupation  
A Good Income  
and  
A Chance for Betterment*



PUBLISHED BY  
The Irrigation Council of Alberta

*“A close economic dependence among the people and a high degree of social co-ordination grows out of the practice of irrigation farming over a large area. The fertile nature of the soil, the favorable climate, and the co-operation necessary to supply water for irrigation, leads to intensive methods of farming, to specialization in production, and to many co-operative enterprises, not only in agriculture, but also in associated industries in the same region. These intensive practices and the close personal association involved promote a high intellectual and social standard in the community. Irrigation has been an efficient school-master in the practice and value of co-operation in all sorts of enterprises.”—From “Principles of Irrigation Practice.”*

b31.7  
S635  
Pam

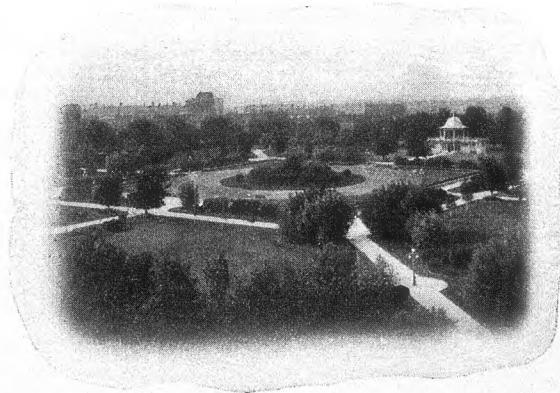
# Small Home Farms

IN THE

IRRIGATED AREAS  
OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA



*A Result of Irrigation*

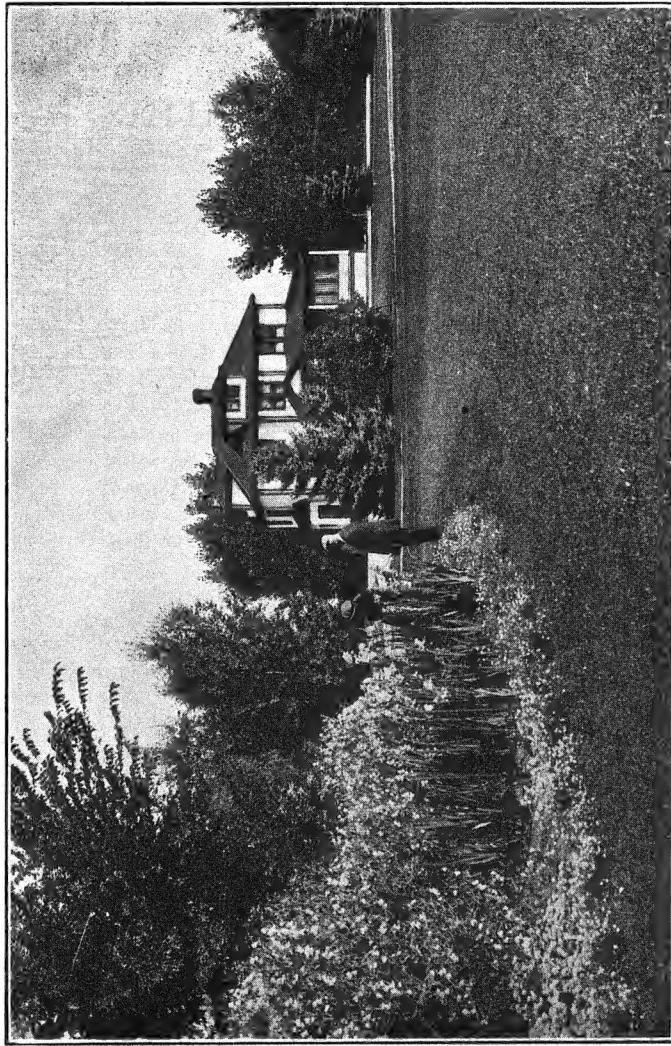


*Galt Gardens, Lethbridge*

*Published by the Irrigation Council of Alberta.*

95092501

TREES AND FLOWERS BRIGHTEN THE HOME



The Superintendent's Home at the Dominion Experimental Farm near Lethbridge. Not many years ago the site of the above was bare prairie. Irrigation has made the transformation possible.

## Small Farms on Irrigable Land

*Water, soil, air and sunshine are the four great groups of physical forces that determine the growth of plants. For the production of plant crops, all of these must be present and active. Water, therefore, is essential to plant growth and crop-production.*

*Irrigation is the artificial application of water to lands for the purpose of producing large and steady crop yields whenever the rainfall is insufficient to meet the full water requirements of crops.*

In the irrigated districts of Southern Alberta there is an opportunity for men of limited means, desiring to make a home on the land, to obtain a small home farm and to share in the benefits that will result from the agricultural development of this rich area under irrigation. At the same time it will enable them to gain, in the most practical manner, such experience in the methods of farming as will fit them for the successful operation and management of a larger farm later on, should they desire to extend.

The soil throughout Southern Alberta is wonderfully fertile and has invariably produced heavy crops of hay and grain in seasons when the rainfall has been above the average. However, the country is subject to a periodical recurrence of years when the precipitation during the growing and ripening season is much below the average and is insufficient for the abundant growth and proper maturing of crops which the soil fertility and the general climatic conditions make possible in years of ample rainfall. The construction of irrigation systems to bring the water from the mountain streams and place it at the disposal of the farmer for use on his land, now enables him, not only to obtain maximum yields of his crops every year, but also to grow successfully a much larger variety of crops than was hitherto possible, including alfalfa (*lucerne*), clovers, peas, beans, corn (*maize*) and numerous kinds of vegetables and small fruits.

The bringing of this rich land under irrigation is therefore leading to the adoption of more intensive farming

FRUITS FOR THE FARMER'S TABLE



Raspberries, Strawberries, Currants and other small fruits grow profusely on Irrigated Land in Southern Alberta. This is a corner of an Irrigated Farm Garden in the Lethbridge District.

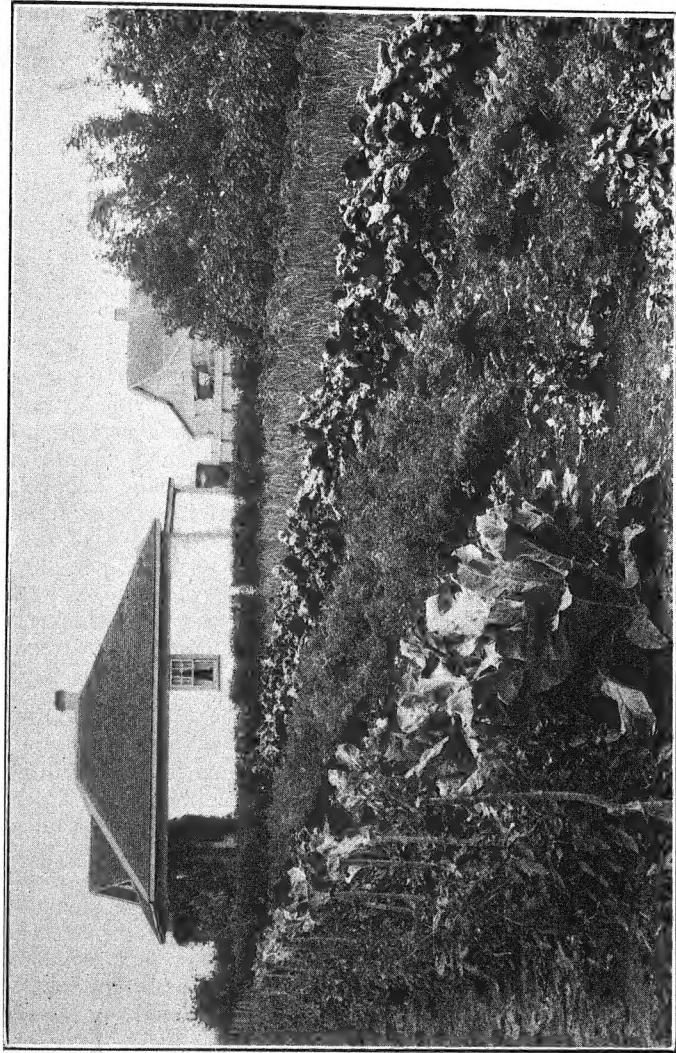
methods in place of the more or less exclusive grain growing system that has been relied upon in the past. A sound and balanced system of farming based on the raising of cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry on the hay and grain and ensilage produced on the farm is made possible. This will mean greater prosperity for a much larger number of people than are now living in this area, and it opens the door of opportunity to hundreds of people who are dissatisfied with present conditions or with their future prospects in the older countries, to gain a livelihood from the land under the most favorable circumstances.

## **What a Small Home Farm Is**

A small home farm is a place which will provide a practical training school in which it is possible for a man to acquire actual knowledge of successful farming methods while earning a living and owning a piece of land and a home. With one of these small farms the new settler can start right and avoid expensive mistakes. Even five to ten acres of rich irrigable land is large enough to produce all the potatoes, vegetables and small fruits that any family could use, as well as sufficient hay and grain to feed a cow, and some chickens or turkeys. And it is not too large but a man could attend to it in his spare time.

The possession of a small farm gives a man stability and makes him independent. He has always his home and cannot be turned out of it. His garden, his cow, his poultry and his pigs are always helping him to make a living. For a cash income, he may find work regularly with one farmer in the neighborhood, or he may work intermittently for several farmers. As circumstances permit he can increase the size of his farm from time to time. With each expansion he would be able to spend more time on his own place and have correspondingly less time for working out, until he had a farm of his own to which he could profitably devote the whole of his time. Or he might have an opportunity to rent land on favorable terms. The ambitious, thrifty

Vegetables of good size and excellent quality are grown on the rich soil when water is available.



*"The farmer on irrigated land can practice a system of diversified farming. Diversified farming naturally follows irrigation. In humid regions the farmer has to grow crops to conform to the rainfall, while by irrigation he can conform his moisture to the crops."—From "Principles of Irrigation Practice."*

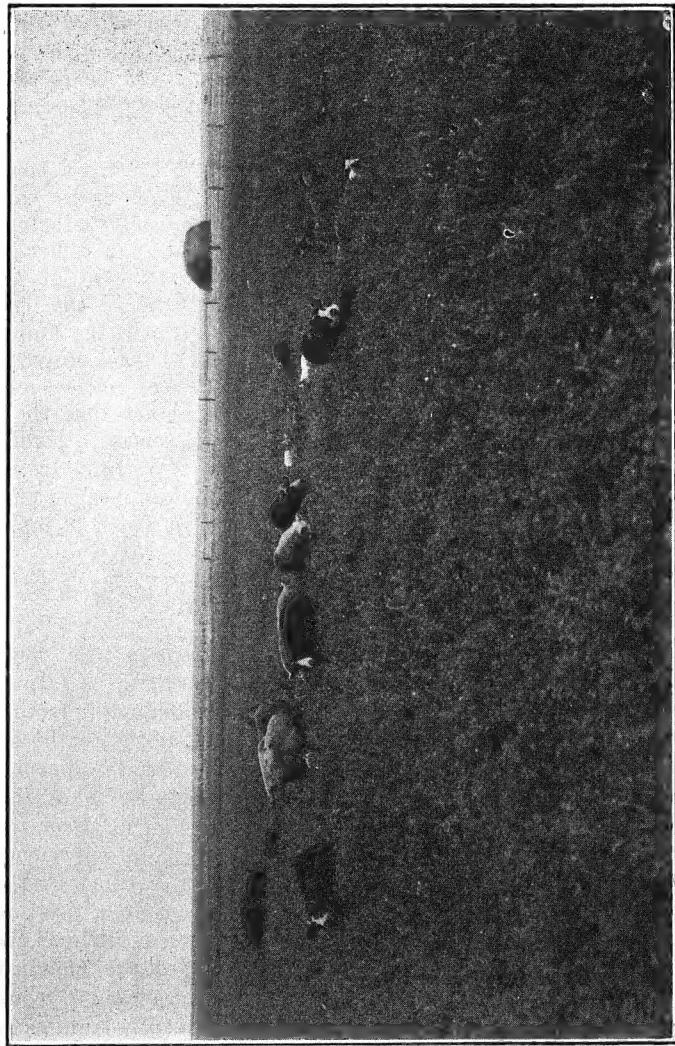
and industrious settler will find a small farm merely a stepping stone to the ownership of a larger place, while the man who does not want to burden himself with the responsibilities of larger farm management, can be certain of steady employment (outside and on his own place) as well as having his own home.

In fact, the settler who is desirous of making a comfortable home on land that will produce good crops year after year and thus assure to himself a steady and satisfactory income from his labor and investment would have difficulty in finding a better opportunity for the fulfilment of his desires than by making a start on a small farm in the irrigation areas of Southern Alberta. The rich soil, the ample supply of moisture to ensure the production of good crops on this soil regularly, the favorable location near cities and towns and several coal mining centres, the fact that these areas are already well settled, have good schools, graded roads, and are within reasonable distance of railway transportation—these are all advantages that should appeal to people who are looking for a satisfactory place in which to make a new home.

### **Advantages of Irrigation**

Irrigation agriculture is in many respects the most attractive of all forms of land husbandry, because the farmer has control of the moisture—one of the fundamental factors of crop growth. The farmer under irrigation, with an ample supply of water at his command, is entirely independent of rainfall. If rain comes opportunely, he takes full advantage of it, but he does not have to depend upon the coming of rains. The good irrigator knows from experience when his crop should be watered and he is fortified by the knowledge that whether it rains or not, he is in a position to supply the necessary moisture—as much or as little as the particular crop demands. Having control of the moisture he is able to attend exactly to the needs of particular crops, and can grow a wider variety, getting best results from each.

PIGS IN ALFALFA



Alfalfa is the standard hay and pasture crop on irrigated land in Southern Alberta. It makes a wonderful hay pasture.

The general climatic conditions in an irrigated area are also of the pleasantest. Since there is less rainfall, it follows that there are more bright and pleasant days—days on which crops make rapid growth if the moisture requirements are looked after. Moreover, the intense cultivation which must prevail under irrigation, makes possible close settlement with the social advantages derived therefrom, such as good schools, improved roads, the best of transportation facilities, etc.

## Irrigation Farming Easily Learned

Nor is irrigation farming any more difficult to learn than any other kind of farming. It is true that there are good and bad ways of getting the water over the land, but the man of average intelligence can easily learn the good ways at the beginning, especially if he begins in a small way. There is no real difference between irrigation farming and humid farming except in the manner in which the water is applied to the crops. Having control of water, however, gives the irrigation farmer more power for getting the best results. The greatest danger to the success of farming under irrigation is in trying to handle too much land. Irrigation farming will be profitable only if the water is used properly. There are limits to the area of land that a man can irrigate properly in a season. Under the conditions prevailing in Southern Alberta the average man will find the most economical farm unit to be between eighty and one hundred and sixty acres. Anything above the proper economic unit is a liability rather than an asset. It is quite possible for an industrious man, using his water intelligently on a farm of eighty to one hundred and sixty acres, to have an average annual turnover of from \$3,000 to \$6,000, and for the exceptional man to do better still.

But such results can only be expected by an experienced man, provided with all the necessary live stock and equipment, and it is to give settlers an opportunity of gaining the necessary experience in the most practical manner and of

IRRIGATED WHEAT ON A FARM NEAR LETHBRIDGE



*"The aim of irrigation is to produce plant growth which will give a maximum of profit."*

enabling them to increase their capital while gaining this experience so as to be able to handle such an area properly that small farms are being reserved in the irrigated areas on which settlers can build their homes and produce most of the necessities of life for themselves and their families, and be convenient to larger farms on which they can obtain employment.

A BEAUTIFUL HEDGE AND OTHER ORNAMENTAL PLANTS ON  
IRRIGATED LAND NEAR LETHBRIDGE.



*"Our modern knowledge teaches that there is no essential difference between rainfall-farming and irrigation-farming, except in the manner in which water is applied to the soil. Every argument against the permanency of irrigation-farming may be urged against rainfall-farming; and every argument for the permanency of rainfall-farming may be used with equal force in behalf of irrigation-farming. The everlasting relationships among soils, waters and plants are the same over all the earth. But under irrigation, the great water factor may be controlled."*—From "Principles of Irrigation Practice," by Dr. JOHN A. WIDTSOE.

EIGHT YEARS' GROWTH



Trees that were planted in 1915 on Irrigated Land near Lethbridge.

# The Possibilities of a Small Home Farm

---

An irrigated farm can be developed and beautified in a surprisingly short space of time, and in the developing and beautifying of it, the settler will get considerable satisfaction and pleasure.

The soil is of the richest. On it grains, grasses, vegetables of all kinds, small fruits, etc., grow profusely under the magic spell of moisture. Trees and shrubs also grow rapidly. Most of the land has been under cultivation, and has probably produced a crop or two of wheat or other grain. There is no brush to clear. Crops can be planted immediately and harvested during the first season. With the water available for irrigation the harvest is practically assured.

Early in the spring is the best time to take up one of these farms. A settler arriving then would first have the land plowed. After selecting his home site he could arrange to use a portion of his farm for his home and garden and another portion for growing alfalfa (*lucerne*) and grain for feeding his cow and chickens. In his garden he would grow all his potatoes and vegetables, while his cow and chickens would furnish his family with milk and butter and eggs all the year around. One of the first things the new settler should arrange for is the planting of a belt of trees and shrubs around his home and garden. This will not only beautify the place, but will also afford shelter behind which small fruits and many of the more tender vegetables can be grown with much success later.

## What Can Be Grown

Strangers to the country are surprised at the wide variety, the rapid growth and the heavy yield of crops grown

A REAL FARM HOME



A Wind-shaded Porch, a Green Lawn, Pretty Flowers in front, and Trees on all sides add to the attractiveness of an Irrigated Farm Home.

under irrigation in Southern Alberta. Wheat, oats, barley, rye, corn (*maize*), alfalfa (*lucerne*), red clover, white clover, vetches, field peas, sunflowers, timothy, brome grass, rye grass, etc., mangels, turnips, beets, carrots, potatoes, and other roots, garden peas, beans of numerous kinds, cauliflower, cabbage, lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, marrows, pumpkins, squash, asparagus, celery, strawberries, gooseberries, red, black and white currants—all these and many others are being grown successfully under irrigation here.

Flowers, too, of gay colors and sweet aroma, grow wonderfully. The settler from the Old Country can have, if he will, an “old fashioned garden with fragrant sweet alyssums and mignonettes along the borders of the paths, with sturdy coxcombs and sunflowers and hollyhocks looking over the fence, with clumps of defiant tiger lilies and pale peonies, and sweet scented beds of phlox and petunias and clove pinks and martial ranks of blue flags and vivid rockets of scarlet sage—a delight from the time the first crocus opens in the grass until the last aster withers at the touch of frost.”

All these and many other flowers he can grow and thus add a brightness and attractiveness to his home which will well repay the care and attention given to them.

### Trees and Shrubs

The planting of trees and shrubs will, however, afford the greatest amount of satisfaction and pleasure. This is due largely to the quick response they give to a little care and attention in the way of proper preparation of the land before planting and cultivation and irrigating afterwards. It is far easier to grow trees where they are wanted on irrigated land in Southern Alberta than it is to clear them from the land on which they are not wanted in more humid countries. They are both ornamental and useful, adding to the beauty of the landscape and the attractiveness of the home, and affording a shelter behind which the most tender plants can be grown.

A COMBINATION OF UTILITY AND BEAUTY



A Reservoir for Watering Stock filled from the Irrigation Ditch, with a few planted trees around it makes a pretty picture. This is a scene on an Irrigated Farm near Lethbridge.

It is amazing what a remarkable transformation can be effected in a short time on irrigated land in Southern Alberta by the planting of trees; and being instrumental in effecting this transformation is not the least of the joys that the planting of trees brings to the settler. The cost in time and labor as well as in money is insignificant. The Dominion Government supplies millions of cuttings yearly free to settlers who have land prepared for planting trees. Seedlings and cuttings can also be gathered in the river bottoms, while native grown ornamental trees and shrubs can be obtained at moderate prices from the various nurseries.

A man may begin with a place as small as ten acres. Its development need only occupy his spare time during the long summer evenings at the end of the day's work, or at intervals between employment. Such a small farm will afford shelter and subsistence for himself and his family, and in its development he will make a place of which he can be justly proud and at the same time be greatly enhancing its value.

### Assistance of Agricultural Experts

In the development of his farm the settler can also avail himself of the experience and service of the Dominion and Provincial governments' agricultural experts. The city



A scene in the Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District where water is now available for irrigation.

CABBAGES IN AN IRRIGATED FARM GARDEN NEAR LETHBRIDGE.



*In view of its certainty of large crop yield, farming under irrigation should be the most attractive of all modes of farming.—From "Principles of Irrigation Practice,"*

of Lethbridge is the headquarters of a Provincial agricultural agent who will gladly assist settlers with practical advice in planning the layout of their farms, the kind of crops to grow, the purchase of livestock, etc. Only three miles from Lethbridge is the Dominion Experimental Station, where a most wonderful demonstration of the possibilities of farming under irrigation is to be seen. What is grown and raised here can be grown and raised by any industrious settler. The Superintendent of the Experimental Station and his assistants are ready and willing to be of any service they can to settlers, and frequent visits to this station will be well worth the while of the new settler on irrigable land.

## Employment

There is plenty of employment obtainable on neighboring farms. Extra labor is always wanted for the busy seasons, such as seeding, irrigating, and harvesting, while on some places regular employment on one farm for the greater part of the year can be obtained. The stability and independence which the possession of a small home farm gives the settler, enables him to make a good living working for various farmers at different times. Farmers frequently want extra help for a few days or a few weeks at a time, and the industrious man can always be assured of a good income by working in this manner.

It should be his aim to make his farm keep him and his family, so that all or the greater part of the money earned by working out can be saved until it can be invested profitably in stock and equipment and additional land. The more land the settler acquires and the more intensively he develops it, the less time he will have for working out, unless he can rely upon various members of his family to look after his own place. Even ten acres could be developed in such a way as to occupy so much of a man's time that it would pay him to take part only in such seasonal work as seeding, irrigating, and harvesting, because he would be able to

CONGENIAL SURROUNDINGS MAKE CONTENTED HOMES



*"There are many reasons why irrigation-farming should become and remain very attractive. Under irrigation, crop yields may be depended on from year to year. Crop failures are very rare and are usually due to some unusual atmospheric disturbance. The possibility of varying the quantity of water applied to the land gives the farmer a control over the yield and quality of the crop that does much to vitalize the routine of the work and to make the harvest more profitable. The soil and climatic conditions prevailing over most of the territory demanding irrigation are of a kind to make life enjoyable."*—From "Principles of Irrigation Practice," by DR. J. A. WIITSOE.

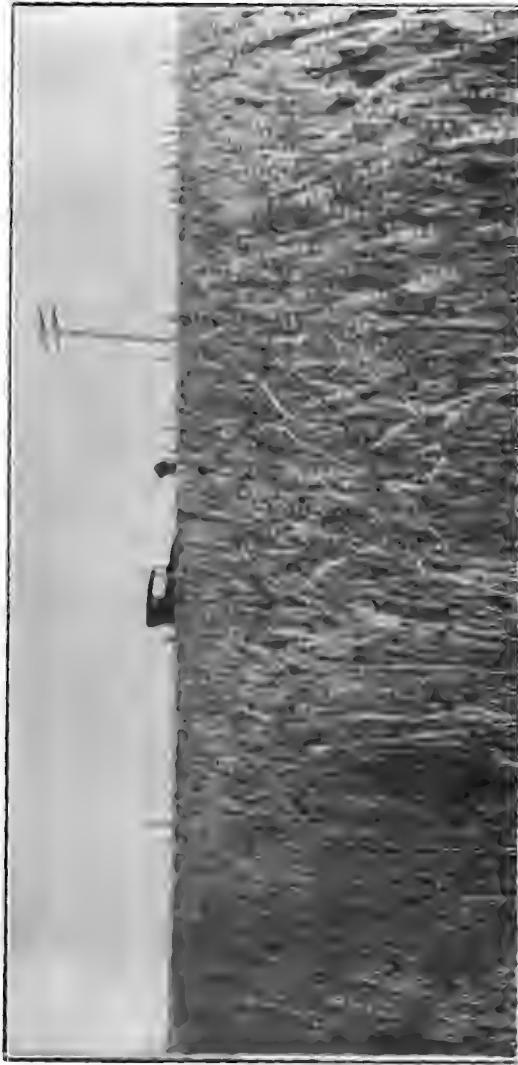
increase his income from his farm by milking more cows and raising more pigs and chickens, or growing more vegetables or small fruits. In this way, and by getting more land as he becomes able, he may gradually acquire a larger farm on which he can devote the whole of his time.

## The Best Way to Begin

Beginning on a small irrigated farm will be found a sound and most satisfactory way for a man to gain the experience necessary for the successful operation of a larger farm. It is much better than paying a small instalment on a larger area and assuming a heavy burden of debt. Few people realize the amount of money that is required to enable a man to start properly on a farm of eighty or one hundred and sixty acres. It is not enough to have the land. Horses, stock and equipment must also be purchased and sufficient money must be kept in hand to cover living expenses until returns are obtained from the produce of the farm. On a larger farm it is easy for the newcomer to make costly mistakes at the beginning. On a small farm the settler can learn his business as he goes along, conserving his capital in the meantime. The cost of the land is small and little equipment is required. Whatever labor he might put into the development of his farm he can expect to obtain back again with interest, for he will be creating an increasingly valuable asset. In the meantime, he would be gaining experience in all kinds of farm work which in due course would enable him to handle a larger farm successfully.

The average settler will also find the conditions on a small farm under irrigation conditions much more to his liking than a free homestead, which can now only be obtained in unsettled areas. There would be no isolation in the irrigated districts. Neighbors are within easy distance on all sides. Good schools are conveniently situated throughout these districts. Lethbridge, a city of twelve

A FIELD OF WHEAT IN THE LETHBRIDGE NORTHERN IRRIGATION DISTRICT



"There is no room for doubt of the adaptability of the native cereals included in the Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District for farming under irrigation. The land surface is smooth and uniform, with sufficient surface variation. The soil varies from clay loam to sandy loam."—From Engineer's Report to the Government of Alberta.

to fourteen thousand people, is easily accessible by road or rail.

Moreover, if the man who takes up a free homestead is not well supplied with capital, he also is obliged to work out part of the time while developing his homestead. Owing to the remoteness of the available homesteads, however, it would in all probability be necessary for him to go some distance from his land to get extra employment. But for the small farm holder in the irrigated areas of Southern Alberta, work is close at hand. It may be steady work with one employer lasting the whole or the greater part of the year, or it may be seasonal work with different farmers at different times, the settler filling in the intervals profitably with work on his own place. In either case it would be sufficient to provide him with a good living.

#### AN IRRIGATED FARM HOME



Whether the home be large or small, its attractiveness can always be increased by trees, shrubs and vines if water is available for irrigation.

DAIRY CATTLE PASTURING ON ALFALFA



"Alfalfa is a wonderful food plant. No other plant grown in the United States or Canada will furnish so much valuable food for so long a term of years without re-seeding. There are some alfalfa fields on this continent that have produced several good crops a year for more than forty years, and judging by the indications, will continue to do so for many years. But these fields have been irrigated from year to year."—From "Forage Crops," by PROFESSOR THOMAS SHAW.

## The Cost of a Small Home Farm

---

Small farms in the irrigated districts can be bought for \$20 to \$10 an acre. For from \$200 to \$1500 the necessary buildings could be erected, the actual cost depending upon their size and whether they were built by the settler himself or whether he would have to have them built for him. It is not advisable to put too much money into buildings at the start. It is better to begin with a small place made as warm and comfortable as possible and add to it from time to time when it is possible to do so.

The purchase of a cow and some chickens would also have to come out of the settler's capital. A cow would cost from \$75 to \$100, while about twenty-five chickens could be bought for \$30. There need be no very heavy outlay for machinery at the start. Arrangements could be made with a neighboring farmer to do all the plowing, and it would be possible to get along with very few implements at first.

To start off, then, properly equipped, a settler would need from \$200 to \$1500 for his land, from \$200 to \$1500 for his buildings, from \$75 to \$100 for a cow, about \$30 for poultry, and from \$50 to \$500 for seed and implements (according to size of farm), and about \$150 for incidental expenses, a total of from say \$900 to \$4000 (about £180 to £800). The larger the sum the better, particularly if the settler has a family of young children. It is, of course, possible to begin on less than the smaller amount. The purchase of some of the necessaries just mentioned would then have to be deferred until the settler earned some money. But with a reasonable amount of capital—especially with the larger sum—the settler would be able to establish himself with a feeling of independence.

IRRIGATION HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE TO GROW THESE TREES  
AND FLOWERS



*Loam soils are not too heavy nor yet too light; they are well suited to our ordinary farm crops, and they form by far the best soils for general farming; wheat, oats, barley, sheep, cattle, milk, fruit and vegetables can all be produced. Indeed, the farmer on a good loam is in the fortunate position of being able to produce almost anything he finds most profitable.—From "Lessons on Soils," by Dr. E. J. BARKER.*

## **How to Reach Lethbridge and to obtain a Small Farm**

Lethbridge is situated on the Crow's Nest Line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, about sixty miles north of the United States border, and one hundred miles west of the city of Medicine Hat, where it leaves the main line. It is reached from Montreal or Quebec in about four days. Through tickets at reduced rates can be obtained by settlers at any of the Canadian Ticket Agencies in Great Britain, Ireland and other parts of Europe. On their arrival at Lethbridge, settlers will be given every assistance in getting suitably located. Automobiles will be on hand to convey them over the district and to show them available land. There is no expense to the settler in connection with these services.

---

## **RECREATION**

The settler coming to Southern Alberta will also find plenty of diversion. Most of the small towns of the district have their football teams, and exchange matches with each other and several clubs in Lethbridge. Football is played here in the evenings during the summer months. The popular out-door pastime during the winter is skating; everybody skates from the youngest child to the oldest man or woman. There is no danger of the ice breaking. Ice hockey and curling are also popular winter sports. During the winter months social activities are at their height. Short extension courses in various branches of farming are also given during the winter under the auspices of the Provincial Department of Agriculture and the University of Alberta at convenient points in the country.

## **CLIMATE**

A word or two regarding climate is appropriate before closing. People here, taking everything into consideration, believe they have the best climate in the world. It is true that it gets cold in winter time, but on account of the tempering influence of the Chinook winds, the cold spells are not of long duration as a rule. During the greater part of the winter months the weather is crisp and bright. There is no dampness, and fog is unknown. On the coldest of days there is generally continual sunshine. The atmosphere being dry, the cold is not felt nearly so severely as it is in more humid climates. It is very seldom that children are prevented from playing in the open. Livestock thrive wonderfully, the larger stockmen keeping their cattle and sheep in the open all the year round. In the summer the days are long and in the warm sunshine crops make rapid growth. On account of the dryness of the atmosphere the summer heat, like the cold in winter, is rendered more pleasant. It is never unbearably hot. The nights during summer are generally cool and agreeable. Taking everything into consideration few places have a more pleasant climate than this part of Southern Alberta.

## **CONCLUSION**

The small irrigated home farm is not a means of enabling a man to get rich quickly. It does promise the industrious man, however, regular employment, a steady income that will provide him and his family with a comfortable living from the start, and the chance of improvement later on. It is a stepping stone to the ownership of a larger farm. The achievement of this will be the reward of patience, industry, adaptability and thrift on the part of the settler. Meanwhile he will be following a healthful, open air occupation and taking part in one of the most interesting developments of the time—the transformation of a large area of semi-arid prairie country into one of the garden spots of the world.

## LAND THAT IS EASY TO IRRIGATE



This stretch of country will be dotted with farm homes surrounded by trees.

### WISHES HE COULD HAVE HAD THIS OPPORTUNITY

To the Irrigation Council of Alberta,  
Lethbridge.

Gentlemen.—

I have read the manuscript for your handbook dealing with the opportunities for settlement on small home farms. I believe the plan outlined therein of reserving small areas of irrigable land for this purpose will give men of moderate means and more or less inexperienced in the methods of farming followed in this country an opportunity to get a proper start.

There is no doubt that on a very small area it is possible to grow all the vegetables and small fruits to satisfy the needs of a large family, and to grow enough hay and small grains to feed a cow and some chickens. My own garden covers about three and a half acres. When we arrived here in 1913 it was bare treeless prairie. Now it is surrounded by a thick belt of trees, many of which are well over thirty feet high. The garden is attended to at odd moments between my work on the farm. We grow a surprising number of varieties of vegetables and fruits in the open, among which are all the common vegetables I used to grow at my old home near Belfast, Ireland, and many others which we could only grow under glass there. Of strawberries, raspberries, red, black and white currants we have an abundance. Our potatoes, - cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, pumpkins, melons, cucumbers, tomatoes, cantaloupes, win prizes both for size and quality.

Besides having all the strawberries and raspberries we can use ourselves, we have also had a good income

from the sale of these fruits. A return of \$500 an acre can easily be made from strawberries on irrigated land here. Tomatoes yield heavily. I have taken as much as ten pounds from one plant.

Even with five acres a man would have an area large enough to build his home, to keep a cow and a good sized flock of chickens, and a couple of pigs, to grow potatoes and vegetables for his home requirements and hay and grain for his livestock. But I would recommend that whenever possible, a beginning be made on at least ten or possibly on twenty acres. The cost of the land is low and the additional area would give a man more scope without adding greatly to the investment.

One of the biggest difficulties farmers here have to contend with at present is the lack of steady help. Any ambitious and industrious man who comes here will, therefore, have no need to be afraid of not being able to find employment for all the time he can spare. A man who is adaptable will also find hundreds of ways in which he can supplement his income.

Your plan has certainly much to recommend itself to the settler possessed of moderate means over the plan of making a small payment on a larger area of land. I only regret that such an opportunity was not available to me when I first came here. I should have made much quicker progress by beginning in this way. The smallest farm then available in this district was 160 acres.

I would like to say here to any person who has a capital to start off with, of, say, from \$1500 to \$2000—buy forty acres, give it proper attention, and you are sure to make good."

(Signed) JOHN HAMILTON.  
Coaldale, Nov. 7th, 1923. Coaldale.



An Irrigated Farm Home near Lethbridge

## WILL IMPROVE THE SOCIAL LIFE IN THE DISTRICT

Irrigation Council of Alberta,  
Lethbridge, Alberta.

Dear Sirs.—

I am very much pleased to learn that you are making a list of small tracts of irrigable land in the Lethbridge Northern district that will be available for actual settlers with small capital. It will be a mutual benefit to the larger farmers here and the new settler, affording the farmer who grows large tracts of grain an opportunity to employ competent local help at busy seasons of the year.

The money paid to the settler on the small tract for his spare time will be spent at home with the local business men and not carried away as at present by transient and often incompetent laborers.

These new settlers on the small tracts will make a more dense population and in a short time will make it necessary to establish much better graded schools and will improve the social life in the district.

The purchaser of the small tract will have every opportunity to succeed. If from the agricultural districts of Europe many of them have from necessity learned some useful lessons in thrift and economy. Many of them would bring enough savings to pay cash for a five or ten acre tract and if bought on terms the interest charge would not be burdensome. Two good cows of a good milking breed could be kept on a ten-acre tract from feed produced at home and would supply all the milk, cream and butter for an average family and perhaps a little to sell, and the skim milk with the addition of a small pasture would feed enough pigs to supply meat for the family. All varieties of summer and winter vegetables, and small fruit can also be grown on the small tract for family use and perhaps some for sale. Since the newcomer can produce his own meat, vegetables, fruit, butter, milk and eggs and has no rent to pay, his expenses will be very small. Being close to coal mines, fuel will be cheap and the whole expense of the average family can be paid with the eggs produced by two hundred hens, the cost of keeping which would be very small.

By this method the beginner on the small tract can produce his own living and a good one and will find many days of spare time to work for his neighbor on the larger grain farm at good wages. The money he earns he can save for a rainy day or use to improve his tract with more acres or better buildings. Success surely

awaits the settler here on the small tract if he is of the right type, and my advice would be to bring them along. We will give them a hearty welcome. Wishing you success along this line, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) JOHN GARFIELD.

Nobleford, Alberta.  
August 15th, 1923.

### AS PRETTY A HOME AS ANYWHERE

"Those of you who have seen what has been done at Lethbridge and what is more recently being done at Brooks by way of making the bald-headed prairie blossom like a rose will have to admit that it is possible to make as pretty a home here as it is anywhere. No district on earth can produce a better Kentucky Blue Grass lawn than the prairie province of Alberta, and a lawn is essential as a part of any building site, as are the trees, of which we can grow Russian poplars, native cottonwoods, laurel leaf willows elms, ash, Manitoba maples and many others, to perfection and in great profusion.

Imagine a little home, if the house consists of only a shack, with a nice Kentucky blue grass lawn in front of it, a large variety of tall trees around it and a fine garden behind, in which is contained all of the garden vegetables previously mentioned, together with the small fruits, and don't forget rhubarb and asparagus. Set this home site in the middle or one side of an irrigated quarter section with either a south or east exposure and let the farmer diversify and rotate his crops and you will have to admit that it will make as happy and as profitable a farm home as can be built anywhere in North America."—(Extract from an address at the Sixteenth Annual Convention of the Western Canada Irrigation Association, by Mr. Don H. Bark formerly in charge of Irrigation Investigations, United States Department of Agriculture).

*"During the course of modern irrigation in America, extending over two-thirds of a century, the average productive power of the irrigated lands has steadily increased. Against the fifteen or twenty bushels of wheat per acre harvested in the first years of irrigation, forty to fifty bushels are now harvested on the same lands."—From "Principles of Irrigation Practice."*

*"Our western irrigable lands will assuredly become the garden spots of Canada. They will be the most highly and intensely cultivated and the most productive between the Atlantic and the Pacific. We have even now ample demonstration in the older irrigated sections of southern Alberta as to what these lands will do. Experiments conducted at Lethbridge to ascertain the increase in yields under irrigation as compared with non-irrigable lands in 1919-20, brought the following remarkable results: Wheat increase over non-irrigable lands on the same farm, 29 bushels per acre; oats 71 bushels; barley 42 bushels; peas 14 bushels, and potatoes 252 bushels. The average production of alfalfa on irrigated land on this farm has been four tons per acre over a number of years, where the non-irrigable lands yielded hardly any return at all. Add to this the certainty of a crop, irrespective of weather conditions, and it will easily be seen that in its irrigated lands the west possesses an asset of incalculable value. Irrigation opens up possibilities in diversified farming and in the establishment of kindred industries, which might well fire our imagination. We see visions of fifty-acre farms, butter, cheese, condensed milk, vegetable canning and beet sugar factories dotted over the landscape, with prosperous towns and villages every few miles. Indeed, all we have to do is to visit the irrigated valleys of Montana, Idaho, Colorado and other irrigating states to visualize the transformation brought about by making the life-giving waters of the mountain streams available to the farmer."—From "The Great West and National Prosperity."*

*"But what strikes one with particular force is the opportunity that exists for real home making on small areas within the irrigated sections. Trees and shrubs grow with wonderful rapidity where abundant moisture is available. Strawberries, melons and all the small fruits can be produced to perfection. Owing to the small holdings and productive capacity of the land, the social conditions will be much superior to those of the ordinary western farm settlement. It is inevitable that these lands will ultimately attract a very superior class of settlers and will rank as the most prosperous agricultural settlements of Canada. With dense settlement there will be full scope for co-operative effort in marketing and for specializing in agricultural production. These areas will support an agricultural population of the sort that will settle down and make homes and lend stability to the country. Farming there, practically under a crop insurance system, will not be materially affected by the vicissitudes of the seasons, will make steady and sound progress from year to year."*—From

*"The Great West and National Prosperity,"* by  
C. W. PETERSON.